

# Press Release

**Contacts: Veronica Mosgrove, Press Secretary**

**Laura Pursnell-Lindsay, Public Information Director**

**225-922-1256**

[pressecretary@LDAF.la.gov](mailto:pressecretary@LDAF.la.gov)

## Statewide Severe Weather

**Baton Rouge, La. (March 10, 2016)** – The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) Brand Commission is coordinating efforts with local law enforcement agencies and offices of emergency preparedness to help facilitate moving livestock out of harm's way as severe weather threatens the state.

Currently, the Louisiana Brand Commission is coordinating with cattlemen in northeast Louisiana to move livestock. Heavy rainfall, flash flooding and damaging winds are the main threats associated with this storm. For cattlemen in the Toledo Bend area, officials are opening the dam producing flooding downstream.

"So far, we've helped coordinate penning and moving approximately 100 cows and calves to higher ground in Bossier Parish. We've also helped coordinate the rescue of four horses out of flood water and to a safer area in Haughton, La.," said Agriculture and Forestry Commissioner Mike Strain, D.V.M. "As a constant reminder, it is a good idea to maintain the condition of livestock trailers and other equipment used to move large animals out of harm's way for situations such as this."

Pet shelters in Alexandria, Bastrop and Haughton are also on standby to help coordinate local animal control efforts. The LDAF Mobile Pet Shelter is also ready to be deployed, if needed.

Proper identification for livestock is crucial in the event of comingling.

Livestock owners who need assistance should call their local Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP).

“We’d also like to urge people to not drive through high water and obey all road closure signs,” added Strain.

For more information on emergency preparation for livestock, go to [www.LDAF.la.gov](http://www.LDAF.la.gov) or [www.getagameplan.org](http://www.getagameplan.org).

###